OH YE HEADS

OF THE

NATION

Who are set in the

Syn. 7. 65. 44

SVPREAM AVTHORITY

Thereof, and are at this time Assembled in

PARLIAMENT,

Hear ye the Word of the Lord, as it came unto me the sixth day of the fifth Moneth of this present year, concerning you,

By *AMBR. RIGG.*

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OF THE

NATION

Who are legally the

SUPREAM AUTHORITY

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THE Lord God Almighty of heaven and earth who reigns on high by his power and strength, whose mercy endures for ever, *Hath now so loved the world that he hath sent his onely begotten Son out* of his own bosom for *a light into the world, that whosoever will receive, believe and follow him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*

Now it being the good pleasure of his heavenly will, first to visit these three Nations of *England, Scotland,* and *Ireland,* and to *send his Son into them to seek and search out his sheep,* (according to his promise made of old, *Ezek.* 34.) and to gather them from the mouthes of the *Idol-dumb shepherds that hath made a prey upon them,* which work is already begun, and many are gathered by his right hand *into his Covenant of life, and are taught of him, and established in his righteousness, against whom no weapon formed shall ever prosper,* for whose sake the imediate hand of Gods eternal power hath been often seen to be stretched forth against his and their enemies (in divers manner of wayes) who would not let *his Seed* go free to offer to him *a sacrifice in righteousness* but laid *heavy burthens* upon his people which they have long groaned under, and their oppressors were often warned as *Pharaoh* was by *Moses* before Gods judgement came upon them, but when they still stopped their ears and hardened their hearts from hearing the cry of the oppressed, then did the *Seed* cry unto the Lord, whose complaint he hath heard, and for its sake hath mightily appeared again and again, and hath rebuked and overturned Protectors, Counsels and Parliaments that he might bring to passe his noble acts which he promised to perform in the dayes of old by the mouthes of his servants the Prophets; so let your ears be open if you do intend to stand.

And them which he hath called and chosen in these three Nations of *England, Scotland* and *Ireland* within this late years hath not been wanting to lay before Protector and Parliament (who then had the power in their hands) the grievous & cruel *yoke of bondage* which they were held under by the seed of evil doers (*viz.* Priests and Lawyers) who had power given from them to lay more grievous burthens upon the chosen of God then all the oppressors that ever was read of before, except the blood suckers in Queen *Maries*

dayes, yea the Priests under a colour of Law from Protector and Parliament hath far exceeded all the false Prophets that ever was heard of before them, in cruelty, tyrany and oppression, the which cannot be paralell'd; which I hope you who now sits at the Sterne of these Nations are not ignorant of, therefore did the Lord suddenly appear, (even when Protector, Parliament and Priest had joyned together *to take Counsel against the Lord and his anointed*) and in a short time rebuked and overturned them and their Counsels *who stopped their ears at the cry of the oppressed, and would not regard the chosen of the Lord whom he sent often to them to try their hearts and to warn them in love and tenderness while the power was in their hands to take off the oppression and exactions from his people*, but when they had refused time after time, the Lord scattered them as chaff, and dashed all their glory in one day, by bringing to nought all their Counsels which was not right in his sight; and all this hath been done by his right hand *for the establishing of righteousness in the land, and for the preservation of his chosen ones whom the gates of hell shall not prevail against.*

Therefore now be awakened and warned all you unto whom the government of these Nations is now committed, let the dread and fear of God be upon every one of you with whom there is no respect of persons or taking of gifts, take heed, oh take heed how you tread in the steps of them that are gone before, for know assuredly that God will not passe by that in you which he hath condemned in them before you; therefore hath God chosen you, *to try your hearts* also, whether they be right in his sight, which if they so be found, he will blesse and prosper you in whatsoever you take in hand, and your enemies shall dread before you, and shall not be able to gainsay nor withstand you, but all their Counsels and plottings against you shall be suddenly confounded *and the Lord will crown you with dominion over all your enemies.*

So let this suffice you, oh ye Princes of *England*, remove violence and spoil, and take the exactions from the people of God, *and fear not man whose breath is in his nostrils, for the earth is filled with violence and grievous spoilers is, and hath been in the Land, who hath not spared the flock of God, yea they who have reproved sin in the gate hath been greatly made a prey upon by them who are inwardly ravening wolves.*

Now

Now if these things be not removed by you (who now hath power in your hands) the Lord remove you and overturn you as he hath done them before you; *for a short work in the earth will the Lord now make and will overturn, overturn all, till he come to reign whose right it is, who will break every yoke from every neck and relieve the oppressed*; for besides many great oppressions in in this Land, the oppression of Tythe is the most cruel and Antichristian, especially to them that professes to live under the Gospel; what a violence and spoil hath been in this Land within this few years by upholding that oppression? how hath the ravening wolves made a prey upon the Lambs of Christ who for conscience sake could not uphold that cruel oppression of Tythe? which all the Priests in *England* is never able to prove by Scripture that ever Tythe was due to the Ministers of the Gospel by the Law of God; for within this late dayes I had a meeting with some of the highest of them, and it was desired of me and several hundreds of the free born people of *England*, that they would prove by Scripture *that Tythe was due to the Ministers of the Gospel by the Law of God, and Tythe should be payed unto them without any further ado, but this they were* not able to do, but laid aside the Scripture and the Law of God, and fled to the powers of the earth, saying, *that it was confirmed by so many Parliaments from age to age, and so it was become a custome*; this is the Priests plea, when they have no Scripture to uphold their Antichristian practices, which the Lords hand is against, they make the Parliaments a cloak for their wickedness; but take heed, I warn you who now are assembled in Parliament, how this is covered any longer by you, *for they that cover iniquity shall not prosper, and he that seeth evil and consenteth to it, shall be confounded and brought to shame.*

So beware how this iniquity is *countenanced* by you; let not the false Prophets make you their cloak for their covetous practices, for I believe there is few so blind but they see *tythes Antichristian under the administration of the Gospel*, unless it be the blind guides whose mouth is put into; yea, many of them dare not to say that it is according to the Law of God, though for a long time they affirmed it was, but now it begins to be so manifest to all, that they are ashamed of that, and saith *it is given them by act of Parliament*; oh away with this mire and filth, throw it out of your house, least it bring a curse upon you and your posteritie for ever.

For the *spirit of the Lord will not always strive with you, nor the mouths of his messengers always be opened to warn you*, but the time cometh suddainly (If you will not hear and lay these things to heart to relieve the oppressed) that you shall say, *Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord*, and this is the word of the Lord unto you all.

And furthermore what a talk hath been, and care been taken *for maintaining of godly and painful Ministers*, which if it had been so indeed, it had been well, but the contrary is much manifested, as concerning godliness; if it be the Priests that preach for hire, that is meant, their own mouths (within these late dayes) hath made them all Lyars who calls them godly, *For they have confessed themselves to be wicked and ungodly in the hearing of many people, and that the very sins of their prayers were able to bring the judgements of God upon this Nation*; this was at one of their fasts for the violation of times, as they said, and confessed themselves, *That they came together to pray against sin, with as bad hearts as they did commit it, and spake against the present powers*, and said, *they tollerated deceivers*, and prayed to *put a curb in their nostrils*, and much more of their filthy stuffe, which is too tedious to mention. Now if these and such like be called godly Ministers, who then is wicked and ungodly? let the witness of God in all consciences judge.

And it is not an unknown to many thousands of the good people of this *Commonwealth*, the *covetous practices*, and *ungodly deeds* of these and such like, that is, and hath been called *godly Ministers*, how that they have caused many to err by their unsavoury conversation and unholy walking, living in all manner of lacivousness, so that none is able to turn from the evil of their ways. Oh consider of it and lay it to heart, *For the cry of the oppressed is great*; my soul is even loaded and oppressed to bear it, how great is the complaint in every Town and City of the hireling Priests by all sorts of people? yet they that work so much wickedness is set up and called godly Ministers, when their daily practice shews the contrary to all that is not wilfully blinds; and I believe some of you are not ignorant, *How that within these late days such were joyned together with the powers of the earth to bring the Nation into misery and slavery, if the Lord had not mightily appeared, and suddainly confounded their counsels* (for his chosens sake) *and scattered the wicked as chaff*; and shall such always be set up and called

called godly Ministers, and be maintained in deceit and wickedness? Oh I warn you once again to take heed what you do in this things; For *the Lord will not alwayes be mocked, nor suffer the oppressed alwayes to cry unto him and not lend his ear unto them.*

Will not these company of Priests come cringing and bowing to you now for their bellies, which is their god, and flatter you as they have done them before you? and if you lend your ear unto them, *they will lead you to destruction as they have done many before you*; therefore let them be called together and proved by the Scripture, whether they be *godly* or no before us and you, and tried as *Baals* Priests were, and if they so be found in the doctrine of Christ, they will be content with the same wages, which they who were sent forth by Christ had, which I hope none that fears God will deny; but if they be found contrary to the doctrine, and out of the true Apostles practice (as their daily practice manifests) then let them be testified against and denyed of all. *Least Gods judgement come upon this Land because of the iniquity of Priests and people, for the land is almost full of adulterers, and because of oaths the land mourns, and the pleasant places is dryed up*; For that which formerly was in a measure destroyed is now beginning to be set up again, both by Priests and people; as *Herbert Morley* one of the Rulers in the County of *Sussex*, professed openly upon the bench in *Lewis, That he had rather that Prelacy were up again then that the truth should appear*, which he called bables; this was spoken in the hearing of many witnesses: And *John Fagg* another of the Rulers of that County (who formerly in the appearance stood for the Nations freedome from Kingly power) hath been known (within this late years) to have *Cavaliers often to resort to his house to gaming and sporting and Hunting, and feasting, and rioting in the time called Christmas*, which formerly was denyed, this may be witnessed by good testimony, which if these (and more which might be mentioned) go on, the Nations will soon be brought to misery; therefore look about you while you have time, for they are not your greatest enemies that deals most plainly with you, *The Lord give you an understanding to know the truth, and your friends from your foes.*

Another Priest whose name is *Robert Baker* of *Rottingden* in *Sussex* who hath received hire of that people near this thirty years, said in the Pulpit within this late dayes in the hearing of several witnesses, *That he and his hearers were worse then the damned spirits*

that

now lay roaring and yelling for the sad doom their sins did exceed many of theirs that were now in infernal misery, and said that they were fruitless trees; yet notwithstanding, he the said *Baker* hath from year to year taken the peoples money, and hath not profited them at all, yet he is set up and called *a godly Minister* amongst the rest, and had power given him within this late days to take twelve Oxen, six Cows and a Bull, worth near an hundred and twenty pounds for one years Tythe of land, that the rent of that land is about an hundred pounds *per annum* from a friend, whose name is *Nicholas Beard*, and returned nothing again.

Will not the cry of this and such like cruelty reach to heaven? *Surely the Lord will visite for these things, and his soul will be avenged on such a Nation as this; Was not Zion ploughed as a field? And did not Jerusalem become an heapes because of these things?* Was ever any Nation so deeply involved in iniquitie by a company of hireling Priests, as this Nation? and yet these go under the Sheeps covering and are called godly Ministers. Oh read the Scriptures and be not wilfully blinde, least it be said of *England* as it was of *Jerusalem*, *Oh how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a Hen gathereth her chickins under her wings* (mark under her wings) *but ye would not; therefore shall your enemies cast a trench about you and compass you on every side, because you have dispised the day of your visitation, and rejected the counsel of God to your own destruction.*

Therefore with speed, *Let all grievances be removed, and set men over the people that will execute judgement in the gate, that the Land may be cleansed of evil doers, and lend your ear and shew mercy to the poor and oppressed, who hath long laid under the heavy yoke of bondage; for if you suffer that oppression to stand in the land, for which God overturned them before you, the Lord will overturn you likewise.*

So that which will make you truely honorable and truly noble, is to search out every matter of wrong, without respect to any person, and to regulate these things which hath long been amiss, and to be a terror to all evil doers whatsoever; and to set over the people men to rule that truely fears God and hates covetousnes, that they may rule for God and not wholly for man, as it hath been this many years, for gifts and rewards hath blinded both Priest, Lawyers and people, and hath perverted the way of the just which hath kindled the indignation of God against this land, which cannot be quenched until the streams of righteousnes and true judgement run down this Land; so while you have time and power in your hands, consider of the oregoing lines which is written in true and perfect love to the seed of God in you all,

By a friend of the Commonwealth of England called A. R.

THE END.